

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 7 and 8, and the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 3-6, is appreciatively noted. Dependent claims 3-6 have now been revised to be in self-standing independent format. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 3-8 are all now in allowed condition, and no further comment will be made with respect to these allowed claims.

The rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC §102 as allegedly anticipated by Mitsubishi JP '125 is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the attached translation of the cited Japanese document. It is believed that this translation may be somewhat clearer, in some respects, than the translation supplied by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Form PTO/SB/08a is attached as well, and Applicants respectfully request that this document be made of record. Under the circumstances, it is not believed that any additional IDS Fee should be required. However, if deemed otherwise, authority is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 14-1140 for any required fee.

As will be noted, claim 1 has now been cancelled in favor of new independent claim 12 (from which claim 2 now depends). Accordingly, the following discussion will be directed to new claim 12.

The invention relates to a method for minimizing fiber protrusion from customer premise walls, through which the fibers are routed. The performance of optical fiber is susceptible to being excessively bent. Exceeding its minimum bend radius will, at an extreme, physically damage the cable. In building installations including fiber routed through walls, the fiber cannot closely follow a right-angled transition from the access

hole to the wall surface without exceeding its minimum bend radius. There is thus significant protrusion of the exiting fiber from the wall, even if the bend is controlled so that it curves at or near its minimum bend radius.

Conventional responses to this property of fiber generally involve the provision of extra fiber on the wall surface, looped to accommodate its bend radius, the fiber being housed in surface-mounted boxes. In addition to the need for the provision of extra fiber at such points, the relatively large housing boxes (mounted on the surfaces of both the inside and outside of the premise walls) are unaesthetic and vulnerable to physical damage.

Applicants address this problem by moving the start of the fiber bend to a point within the access hole in the wall. By starting fiber bend before the fiber reaches the wall surface, and by controlling bend from the start point within the wall so that the fiber curve is at or near its minimum bend radius from the start point onwards, a significant portion of the fiber bend is hidden within the wall. This means that protrusion from the wall is reduced that, in turn, means that the plant housing the exiting fiber can be reduced in size.

It is important that the bend of the fiber be located within the wall, to obtain the advantage of reducing the protrusion of the bend-sensitive cable from the wall, and of reducing the size of the apparatus needed to accommodate the protruding fiber.

Mitsubishi JP '125 describes a device that allows the fiber bend radius to be controlled at one end as the cable exits the device. The main concern is the prevention of over-bending the fiber, which is a different problem from that of excessive cable protrusion. It can be seen from Fig. 3 and the descriptions at paragraphs 3, 16, 22 and 23 that the curved section of the regulation member is directed to preventing excessive bend on the side of the wall (W) away from the electric socket (14). The other end comprises a

bore of substantially the same dimension as the fiber, i.e., it does not allow the fiber to bend along its length. This is not clearly shown in Fig. 3, as there is a suggestion that the cable does bend in its entry into the electric socket (14). However, we are told in paragraph 25 that this is dealt with by the electric socket (14) being sufficient to accommodate the fiber so that it does not over-bend. This is not very clear from the USPTO translation, but the paragraph is clearer from the attached English-language translation.

In any event, claim 1 has been amended to require the serpentine curve of the cable path to be within the bore, within the wall. New method claim 17 covers the situation where a fiber cable may be installed, and the protruding end pushed inwards into the bore to obtain the required serpentine curve.

The Examiner's attention is also drawn to new dependent claims 13-16, which will be seen as analogous to original dependent claims 3-6, respectively.

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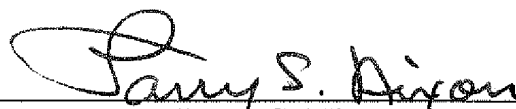
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Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition,  
and a formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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